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tion could have voyaged up the Nile at all. The book is however an excellent study of the geography of Egypt as presented by Herodotus.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED.

*Palestine and its Transformation.* By ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON, Assistant Professor of Geography in Yale University. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. xvii, 443.)

THIS important book records in popular form the results of the Yale Expedition to Palestine in 1909. The author had previously travelled extensively in Central Asia, Asia Minor, Persia, and India. These journeys had led him to adopt certain theories as to changes of climate and their relations to history. Palestine seemed to him to present a unique field for the testing of these theories. For a number of months he thoroughly explored the land "in a series of circuits and zig-zags" which enabled him to see "at least a sample of each of the varied geographic types which nature has thrown together in this unique little country". "Two co-ordinated subjects", he tells us, "form the theme of this volume, topography and climate. The first half of the book is devoted to a description of the appearance and form of Palestine and to a consideration of the manner in which the peculiar geological structure of the country has given rise to certain strongly marked [national] characteristics, whose influence can be traced through history. The second half deals with the climate of the country, or, more specifically, with the changes to which climate has been subject" (p. 6).

The title of the volume refers directly to the second subject. By "the transformation of Palestine" Professor Huntington means to indicate the conditions under which a land once fertile and densely populated has become comparatively barren and sparsely peopled. But the two themes interpenetrate. In the topographical part many concrete instances are given which later serve as illustrations of the second or main thesis. For example, he notes at Aujeh in Southern Palestine the ruins of a once prosperous Graeco-Roman town, with colonnaded streets, baths, churches, etc. He shows that, whereas this town probably supported a population of ten thousand souls in the fifth century A. D., many of the modern Arabs who sparsely inhabit the district round about are genuinely hungry for months each year. He concludes that this change in condition is due to a diminution in the rainfall. He holds, however, that the changes of climate during historic times have not been radical, pointing out that a change in two or three degrees Fahrenheit in the mean annual temperature of Palestine, with corresponding changes in precipitation and evaporation, would have a marked effect on the habitability of the land. Of the three hypotheses, any one of which might conceivably account for the alteration in climate—that of deforestation, that of progressive change, that of pulsatory change—he adopts the last. He maintains that the three great eras of world-history are synchronous with three pulsations

of climate. At the end of each pulsation, the rainfall is supposed to have decreased, only to increase again in the next. But each wave is held to rise less high than the last, so that in the third era, which is still in progress, the rainfall will never reach the point it reached in the first two eras. In support of this thesis he brings to bear a wealth of material, meteorological, geological, geographical, historical, and archaeological. The force of his arguments however, in both sections, is occasionally weakened by sweeping statements which are not justified by the available data. Here and there the data are moulded to suit the argument. But on the whole the material is used in a scientific manner.

Mr. Huntington travelled in Palestine as a geographer, but to him the land was ever the Holy Land. Moreover he is happily not afraid to express his enthusiasm for striking scenery. His personal experiences, though never obtruded, are charmingly woven into the text whenever they may serve as real illustrations.

FREDERICK JONES BLISS.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*Manuel d'Art Byzantin.* Par CHARLES DIEHL, Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Paris. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1910. Pp. xi, 837.)

For years M. Diehl has been known as one of the half-dozen prominent Byzantinists, yet one opens his book with some misgiving. Five years ago, at the first International Archaeological Congress in Athens, Byzantine archaeologists discussed whether the time had arrived for a synthetic statement as to Byzantine art, and the feeling was that there was still too little consensus of opinion as to its limits, its character, and its origin, too little of scholarly analysis and classification of its monuments. Since the congress, however, more discoveries have been made in this field than in the preceding century. New artistic schools have been disclosed. Every year has brought illuminating material or startling hypotheses, for much of which the Austrian critic Strzygowski is responsible. This activity has made the writing of Diehl's book possible. As he says, it is rather a history than a manual: the first attempt at a history of Byzantine art, though another French scholar, Millet, has recently given some important chapters to this subject in the monumental history of art edited by Michel.

There can be no question of the thoroughness, scholarship, perspicacity, and constructive ability shown in this book, cloaked in the interesting literary form so peculiar to French writers. It is a very notable contribution to art history, and all the more important because no style of art has been so maligned, misunderstood, and ignored.

The preliminary chapters on the origin and formation of Byzantine